



Staff Report

Agenda Item: Swimming Pool Donation – Acceptance of an \$8,500 donation from Gantry Constructors, Inc., and discussion of a fundraising campaign for the re-opening of the Clarkdale Pool of the 2011 swim season.

Submitted By: Town Manager Gayle Mabery

Meeting Date: June 8, 2010

Background: As the Council is aware, our locally generated revenues and state shared revenues have declined dramatically over the past two years. We had to close the Town's pool in the summer of 2009 and 2010 due to lack of funds, and, without a new funding source, we anticipate the same circumstance for the summer of 2011. Although the pool is used by a small percentage of our community, it is a point of pride and promotes a sense of community for many, and it provides a recreational opportunity for many children. There is vocal support within the community to re-open the pool as soon as possible.

Several weeks ago, Council Member Dehnert and Town Manager Mabery met with Raymond E. Bluff, President of Gantry Constructors, Inc. who wanted to discuss opportunities to promote a fundraising campaign in an effort to raise approximately \$75,000 to re-open the Clarkdale Swimming Pool for the summer of 2011. Gantry Constructors is a family-owned, Arizona based Civil Engineering Contractor with offices on Main Street in Clarkdale. They specialize in public works projects throughout Arizona, California, New Mexico and Nevada, including the construction and rehabilitation of water and waste water treatment plants, water and wastewater pumping plants, underground water transmission and distribution pipelines, sewage force mains and sewage interceptor and collection lines.

Gantry Constructors have generously donated \$8,500 to begin the fundraising campaign. The \$75,000 target for the fundraising campaign would cover the costs of operation of the pool for the summer of 2011, and the costs to upgrade the pool's drain system to be in compliance with new federal standards. We also recently discovered that the electrical disconnect at the pool meter was not functioning and does not meet code. Staff has been working with APS on this issue, and APS has generously donated a new pole and the labor to set the pole (valued at approximately \$2,000) in order to get the electrical issues addressed and in compliance with codes. Our goal is to raise the needed \$75,000 over the next 9 months, by March 1, 2011, so that all pool improvements and hiring could be complete before the anticipated opening of the pool in May, 2011.

Although the \$75,000 fundraising goal is ambitious, our hope is that the strong support in the community will translate into support for the fundraising. Additionally, we would like to use Gantry Constructor's generous donation as a challenge to other corporations, organizations and/or individuals who might consider supporting the pool. Staff's suggestion is to ask the Parks and Recreation Commission to take the lead on organizing the fundraising campaign, and

encourage them to involve members of the community that are interested in helping with the effort. This item is listed on the agenda for their June 9th meeting.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Council accept the donation from Gantry Constructor's, and direct the staff to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to organize a \$75,000 fundraising campaign to re-open the pool for the summer of 2011.